

REMARKS

In this paper, claim 1 is currently amended, and claim 17 has been added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-17 are pending.

Claims 5-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lin (US 5,690,410). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 5 recites a same lighting device providing backlighting for the display as well as lighting outside of the computer housing. A backlight is a light source in back of a liquid crystal or other electronic display that increases readability by lighting the actual information displayed. As mentioned previously, that is the definition adopted by the applicant, and the claims must be interpreted accordingly. *See, e.g., In re Zletz*, 13 USPQ2d 1320 (Fed.Cir. 1989).

Furthermore, while a term may be given its broadest reasonable interpretation, the interpretation cannot render the term meaningless. For example, a “support” cannot be interpreted to cover a structure that provides no support. In any event, the term “backlighting” is being used as a verbal, not as a noun. The office action states that a same lighting device (131) provides backlighting for display (13) as well as lighting outside of the computer housing (10). However, Lin does not say that any light from lighting device (131) impinges upon display (13), nor can it be said that any light from lighting device (131) *necessarily* impinges upon display (13) or aids the readability of display (13) in any way.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Lindh (US 5,029,055). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the light emitted by the lighting device is directed primarily through the beveled portion. Using the interpretation at page 6 of the office action, no light is directed through the beveled portion of the Lin device. Furthermore, the light is not directed primarily through the beveled portion of the Lindh device. Thus, even if the teachings of Lin and Lindh were combined, the result would not be the invention recited in claims 1-4.

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Kennedy, et al (US 2,747,078) and Sun, et al (US 5,477,425). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 7 recites a conduit coupler disposed on the computer housing for coupling a conduit from an externally mounted device. Lin discloses a self-contained, isolated computer and lighting display for a bicycle, and Sun, et al disclose a simple lighting device.. Kennedy, et al is directed to a lighting device used in explosive environments such as oil or gasoline tanks, mines, chemical plants, etc.. Kennedy, et al is not directed to the bicycle field. Furthermore, the problem addressed by Kennedy, et al is explosions caused by sparking, arcing, short-circuiting, overheating or breaking of the lighting device. Kennedy, et al solves this problem by pumping noncombustible gas into the lamp enclosure through a conduit to maintain the lamp in an envelope of incombustible gas under superatmospheric pressure. Kennedy, et al is not at all concerned with providing a conduit coupler disposed on a computer housing for coupling a conduit from an externally mounted device, nor is there any reason to believe that either the Lin or Sun, et al devices carry a risk of explosion. Thus, Kennedy, et al is nonanalogous art and should not be used in the obviousness inquiry.

Furthermore, the office action states that it would be obvious to provide a conduit coupler “in order to secure and protect the wiring between the light/computer housing and connected external devices.” However, that assumes that one would be motivated to connect external devices to the housing to begin with, and there is no such suggestion in the prior art. The prior art devices are not at all concerned with distributed functionality.

Finally, the prior art neither discloses nor suggests a conduit coupler dimensioned for coupling a conduit from an externally mounted bicycle control device adapted to be mounted to a bicycle handlebar as recited in new claim 17.

Claims 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Baker (US 3,792,307). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 recites a separate battery housing spaced apart from the computer housing. Both the battery and the circuitry in Baker are disposed in the same housing (13), and the same is true in Lin.

The office action states that it would be obvious to provide the battery, wiring, and generator separately from Lin's lighting device "to provide the power to the computer housing either from the generator while the bicycle is traveling or from the battery when the bicycle is not in motion." However, this statement is totally irrelevant to the question of whether or not one would be motivated to separate the battery from the computer housing. A battery contained within the computer housing also is capable of providing power when the bicycle is moving or stationary.

Claims 13-14 and 15-16 were rejected separately under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Baker. These bases for rejection will be discussed together and are respectfully traversed.

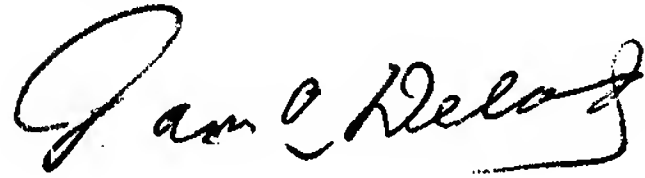
Independent claims 13 and 15 each recites a separate battery housing spaced apart from the computer housing. In both bases for rejection, the office action states that it would be obvious to provide the battery, wiring, and generator separately from Lin's lighting device "to provide additional illumination around the bicycle which also provide clear indication of a bicycle presence." However, this statement is totally irrelevant to the question of whether or not one would be motivated to separate the battery from the computer housing. A battery contained within the computer housing does not affect the amount of illumination, nor does a battery disposed inside the housing decrease illumination.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

KAZUHIRO TAKEDA  
Application No.: 10/605,528  
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

James A. Deland  
Reg. No. 31,242

DELAND LAW OFFICE  
P.O. Box 69  
Klamath River, California 96050  
(530) 465-2430